

LONESTAR NEWS

SPECIAL TROOPS BATTALION, 2BDE



June 2005



Words from Lone Star 6

FIRST IN!! Greetings to the Soldiers, families and friends of the Lone Star Battalion. I want to first say how proud we are of each and every one of you for all that you do for this great nation. This past week on 14 June we proudly celebrated the United States Army's 230th Birthday. For 230 years, the Nation has entrusted the Army with preserving its peace and freedom, and defending its democracy. Since 1775, American Soldiers have answered the call to duty. Our Soldiers are devoted with the ideals of the Warrior Ethos and motivated by an unwavering belief that we will be victorious. Our Soldiers have understood that our Constitution and the freedom it guarantees are worth fighting for. Soldiers sacrifice their personal comfort and safety to answer a higher calling: service in the cause of freedom, both at home and abroad. You have made our Army the most respected institution in the United States and the preeminent land power on Earth. Thank you for answering the call to duty.

The Soldiers have been training hard over the last month to include combat life saver, drivers training on our different vehicles and the highlight was our Combat Patrol live fire (what others refer to as Convoy live fires). Soldiers faced the threat of broken down vehicles, treating wounded, reacting to insurgents and shooting at targets both on the move and stationary. Great effort by all, and most Soldiers are extremely confident in their ability to react to many situations they may face while on combat patrols in Iraq.

We now have information that we can share about our upcoming deployments. First of all the Brigade will travel to the National Training Center (NTC) in July, with most Soldiers leaving between 5 and 9 July. We should all be back by the 12th of August. NTC will allow us to hone our skills and interact with Arabic speaking role players on the battlefield. This will be the hardest training we will face, and it's made difficult to get us ready for Iraq. We will face more actions in 14 days at NTC than we should in an entire year in Iraq.

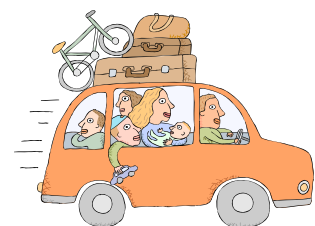
Lonestar Happenings

Promotions:

SGT Colon
SGT Ellis
CPT Townsell
1LT Kasper
SGT McDonald

Reenlistments:

SSG Hernandez



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With respect to Iraq I can tell you that we will load our equipment early in October and starting deploying Soldiers mid-November. All our Soldiers will be eating Thanksgiving dinner in Kuwait. We are planning on a 12 month rotation. 2nd Brigade will fall under the Marines, demonstrating our ability to fight with any service.

The Battalion is holding a briefing where there will be a representative from Tri-Care to speak on how your family can get care if they are away from the Ft. Hood area. We encourage spouses to attend. If you have any questions contact the Battalion S1, 2LT Williams. I encourage all of you to contact your company FRG leaders listed in the newsletter and see how you can get involved. Better to get to know some of the other families and spouses in your company now than wait until your Soldier is deployed.

BLOCK LEAVE. We have finalized Block Leave for the Battalion so you can make plans now. The dates are 29 Aug through 11 Sept.

As we get closer to the Iraq deployment I would ask each of you to take advantage of each opportunity to spend time or at least talk to friends and family. Life is about choices and spending time with family and friends now should be a high priority. We only have so many weekends free between now and our deployment.

Thanks for all you do for the Battalion and our nation. This nation is truly grateful for the sacrifice each of you makes on a daily basis. Thank you and God Bless.

"First In"

FIRST

UPCOMING BATTALION EVENTS

1-4 July	Holiday weekend
14-17 Oct	Columbus Day 4 day weekend

Lonestar FRG Leaders

MRS. MURASKI (BN FRG)

MRS. BOLENDER (HHC FRG)

MRS. COTTRELL (A CO FRG)

MRS. EVERINGHAM (B CO FRG POC)



HHC

Hurricanes

HHC soldiers once again headed out to the field during the Convoy Live-Fire exercise, honing their skills in convoy security and targeting. HHC also deployed its senior leadership to Fort Irwin, CA for the Leaders' Development Program, built to improve their situational awareness prior to the National Training Center Rotation in July.

After the smoke cleared and the shots died down from our M2A3 Bradley OPNET, SSGs Michael Maples and William Dobbs qualified their crews SUPERIOR, beating out all the other units. Their crews included SPC Andy McWhorter, PV2 Tyler Moore, PFC Richard Sutter and PFC Smith-Cody.

The FRG is now in high gear after the HHC FRG leader recently graduated from the FRG Leaders' Course and hosted the third HHC FRG meeting.

HURRICANES!
HURRICANE 6



STB Soldiers simulate changing a flat tire during the Convoy Live Fire

Alpha Company

Stalkers

The Shadow Stalkers have gone through some extensive transitions and are full steam ahead into the challenges and heat that await us at the National Training Center at the Oasis in sunny Fort Irwin, Ca. We are all working hard to get ready for this month long tour. Our FRG Leader and the FRG are working to ensure that the soldiers and their families are ready to meet their own brand of challenges as we prepare for NTC.

1st Platoon welcomed 2LT Michael Aptaker, coming from 1-67 AR BN here at FT. Hood, and SGT Anderman, coming from 742 MI BN at Ft. Meade, Maryland, to our exclusive group of extraordinary individuals. Second Lieutenant Aptaker will be serving as our Executive Officer and Headquarters Platoon Leader, and SGT Anderman will be serving as an Intelligence and Electronic Warfare System Repairer (33W). The FOX reconnaissance platoon has undergone some major changes in the last couple of months. We had two Soldiers ETS, SGT Auliveld and newly promoted SGT Rubalcava. On top of that, SSG Lam found a new home in the Battalion S3 shop as the NBC NCO. To fill their places we welcomed SFC Lazaro as the new platoon sergeant, and two new Soldiers, PFC Saliba and PFC Wayne.

The UAV platoon had an exhibit during Civic Leader's Day at West Fort Hood where CPL Galvez, CW2 Miller, SSG Ward, 1LT Horvath and PFC Clark wowed the crowd with their technical expertise. The platoon would like to welcome 1LT Kasper, replacing 1LT Horvath, as their new platoon leader, SGT Weary, PFC Clark, PFC Arons who is recently a new father, Congratulations! The Prophet platoon welcome 1LT Antao as their new platoon leader and it seems to be one big party. SPC Marshall celebrated his birthday on the 5th and SPC Darrington on the 14th. (It is up to them to tell you how old they are). SGT Robbins will be celebrating his birthday at NTC (1AUG) and SPC Yarbrough shortly thereafter (15AUG). Happy Birthday!

SHADOW STALKERS LEAD THE WAY!

Bravo Company

Bulldogs

The Bulldogs continued to maintain a heavy workload in May and June as we approach our deployment. The company recently executed a convoy live fire range where their training on combat patrols was clearly evident and resulted in commendation from the battalion commander. We have also begun training for the fielding of the Joint Network Node which will be replacing our current communications equipment later this year.

The next big event for the company will be supporting the communications requirements for the Warhorse Brigade at the National Training Center in July and August. The Bulldogs will be flying on the 8th of July and should return around the 9th of August. I am excited about the training our Soldiers will experience during the rotation. It will be a great test of our ability to support the brigade's communications over long distances and unfamiliar terrain.

We will also be able to use this as a test of our ability to support the families of our Soldiers and pass information while the company is deployed. Soldiers' families should contact either the family readiness group leadership or the rear detachment commander with issues or concerns while we are gone.

We are welcoming a new First Sergeant, Adelvino Puga, who is coming from the 3rd Signal Brigade and are saying goodbye to First Sergeant West who has performed remarkably for the Bulldogs and will be greatly missed.

I continue to be amazed by the flexibility of our Soldiers in accomplishing all of the missions that thrown our way in the fluid environment we are operating in. I have no doubt that they can accomplish any task they are asked to do with discipline and professionalism.

"THIS IS OUR BACKYARD SIR," BULLDOG 6 OUT!!

Army One Source

Is a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week, toll-free information and referral telephone service available to all soldiers and families.

AOS provides information for every day concerns, deployment and reintegration issues, relocation, financial matters, family support, relationships, education and schooling, health and wellness, and more. Additionally, if there is a need for face-to-face counseling, AOS will provide referrals to professional civilian counselors for assistance.

www.Armyonesource.com

1-800-464-8107

Feeling the Impact of Army Life?

Having difficulty finding and obtaining help?

Dealing with injuries, physical symptoms, or stress associated with combat?

Having troubles connecting with family and friends?

Unsure of your next step?

Care Managers Can Help!

**Call the Behavioral Health
Deployment Help Care Line
535-4497**